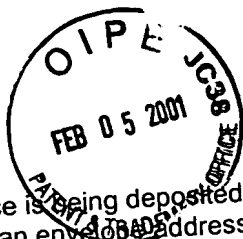


Docket No.: E-40358



GAU 1771

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below:

By:

Date: February 2, 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Michael Grobbel et al.
Applic. No. : 09/351,608
Filed : July 12, 1999
Title : Process for Producing a Floor Covering, Floor
Covering and Plant for Carrying Out the Process
Examiner : Elizabeth M. Cole Art Unit: 1771

RESPONSE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated January 30, 2001, the following remarks are made:

In deference to the restriction requirement on pages 2 and 3 of the above-identified Office Action, applicants elect group II, claims 32-41, with traverse for prosecution at this time.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application including the claims of group I and III at a later date.

In view of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on the merits of claims 32-41 is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

For Applicants

E.A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308

Date: February 2, 2001

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